

Message Text

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44

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 /019 W

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R 302215Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5585

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SUVA 1337

WELLINGTON FOR AMBASSADOR SELDEN

EO11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF LUMBER IMPORTS

REFERENCE: STATE 277334

1. DURING VISIT OF AMBASSADOR SELDEN AND CHARGE TO TONGA
EARLY LAST MONTH, AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
OF TONGA QUESTION OF DISPARITY BETWEEN PREFERENTIAL DUTY ON
NEW ZEALAND LUMBER (DUTY FREE) AND DUTY CHARGED ON AMERICAN
TIMBER.

2. SEC TO GOVERNMENT EXPLAINED THUT TONGA STILL
OPERATING ANOND COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE DOUBLE LINE
TARIFF, BUT THAT HE SUPPORTING ACTION TO ADOPT SINGLE LINE
TARIFF. AMBASSADOR URGED HIM TO PRESS FORWARD ON ACTION TO PROVIDE
RELIEF FOR AMERICAN LUMBER AND OTHER GOODS.

3. WHEN REFTTEL RECEIVED, CHARGE CONTACTED SEC TO GOVERNMENT
WHO INFORMED HIM THAT DOUBLE LINE SCHEDULE STILL IN EFFECT,
BUT THAT HE LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY OF EXEMPTING AMERICAN
LUMBER. ON INSTRUCTIONS OF AMBASSADOR, CHARGE HAS WRITTEN
SEPARATELY TO SENATOR PACKWOOD TO ACQUAINT HIM WITH CURRENT
POSITION.

4. BELIEVE THERE IS GOOD POSSIBILITY TONGA EVENTUALLY WILL
ADOPT SINGLE LINE TARIFF OR, FAILING THAT, PROVIDE MPN REPEAT
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MFN TREATMENT FOR AMERICAN PRODUCTS ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS IF WE

CONTINUE SHOW OFFICIAL INTEREST. FLANEGIN

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Message Attributes

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